

mom, Edie poured her heart, soul, time, and energy into her only child. In the last letter he sent home from Iraq, Benjamin thanked his mother for everything she did for him, calling her his "best friend in the entire world."

My heart truly goes out to Edie Gilman, who has suffered the kind of loss that is difficult for most of us to comprehend. We often speak of the weighty burden borne by our men and women in uniform—and rightfully so. But we would do well to also remember the burden placed on the shoulders of the families of these brave Americans.

While our troops are defending our freedoms overseas, all across America there are husbands and wives who must bear the responsibility of raising children alone. There are sons and daughters who must do without a helping hand with their schoolwork, or an enthusiastic supporter at their soccer games. There are brothers and sisters who are missing a role model, a mentor, a friend.

There are fathers and mothers, who endure anxious days and sleepless nights knowing that their children are in harm's way. And then there are people like Edie Gilman, who one day learn the heartbreaking news that someone they love will never be coming home.

And so today I salute the courage, the commitment, and the conviction of Benjamin Gilman, a young man who lost his life fulfilling the noblest of callings, defending our Nation and the values we hold dear. And I offer my deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to Edie Gilman, who has made a sacrifice for her country that is too great for words.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALL MILITARY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AND THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to thank the service men and women who have served our country so bravely in Afghanistan and Iraq. I also want to thank Peter Angelos and the world-class organization that he leads, the Baltimore Orioles. All too often we hear negative stories revolving around professional athletes. With this in mind, I have to tell you about a wonderful event that took place a few nights ago.

Tuesday night, my colleagues in the Senate Democratic caucus, along with members of the Baltimore Orioles, visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center. We went to Walter Reed to personally thank and honor the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have sacrificed so much for our country in Afghanistan and Iraq. When Peter Angelos was asked if anyone from the Orioles would be willing to visit soldiers at Walter Reed, there was an overwhelming response from players, coaches, and front office personnel alike. In fact, there were so many volunteers that not everyone could be accommodated. Specifically, I would like

to recognize the following members of the Orioles organization who joined us at Walter Reed last night: pitchers John Parrish, Rick Bauer, Julio Jorge, Sidney Ponson, and Matt Riley; outfielders Larry Bigbie and Jay Gibbons; infielders Bran Roberts and Miguel Tejada, accompanied by his wife Santa; Jim Beattie, executive vice president of baseball operations, his wife Martha; Mike Flanagan, vice president of baseball operations, his wife Alex and daughter Kerry; and bullpen coach, Elrod Hendricks.

As a Senator from the great State of North Dakota, I know all too well the sacrifices that are made by members of this country's military. I am proud to say that North Dakota has the highest National Guard membership per capita in the Nation, and not surprisingly, during the Iraq crisis has had the most mobilized personnel per capita of any State.

Thus, it was truly heartwarming, as we went from table to table at Walter Reed, to see the enthusiasm of not only my fellow Senators, but also of the Baltimore Orioles in paying tribute to and recognizing the courageous men and women of the United States military. It is their professionalism, dedication, and hard work that provide the very freedoms that make this country great and it was obvious that these ideals were not lost on the members of the Baltimore Orioles.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK EAGLE'S GRAMMY WIN

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a group of musicians from my home State of New Mexico. The group, Black Eagle, won a Grammy this past Sunday night.

The Black Eagle group is from the Pueblo of Jemez, which is one of the 19 Indian pueblos in our State. Those of us who reside in the Southwest are familiar with the pueblos and their people, but many are not. The pueblos share many common traditions, but they are distinct entities and maintain unique identities. The Jemez Pueblo, located in north central New Mexico, is home to the beautiful red mesas, rich culture, and some of the most wonderfully talented people around. Uniquely, the Pueblo of Jemez is the only remaining village of the Towa speaking pueblos. The Pueblo has long been known for its artistic talent and craft, but now its distinguished musicians can now add "the Grammy winning" declaration to their accolades.

The Black Eagle group formed in the late 1980s. The group's founder, Malcom Yepa, started the group when he was in his teens. With some urging, he, several friends, and several family members began composing songs in their native Towa language. Currently, the Black Eagle's are comprised of about 20 members from all across the age spectrum.

Prior to their Grammy for best Native American Music Album, their sixth album "Flying Free," won the Best Pow Wow Album of the Year award at the 2003 Native American Music Awards held in Albuquerque this past November. Both awards are a remarkable tribute to their hard work, commitment, and determination.

In addition to being musicians, the group has often reiterated their dedication to their village and their ancient culture. Furthermore, their resolve to positively influence young people is most admirable. For that, and for all their accomplishments, I am proud, and I salute each and every one of them here in this RECORD. May their recent success be only a prelude to future accomplishments, and may they continue to represent their people and the state of New Mexico with distinction.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 743) to amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional safeguards for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries with representative payees, to enhance program protections, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 523. An act to make technical corrections to laws relating to Native Americans, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3783. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 10:07 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by